

Picnic shelters are great for gatherings

Picnic shelters will soon be available to rent for next year's picnics, receptions, reunions or meetings. Registration begins January 2 for use April through mid-October. All shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. In addition, City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, walking trails and softball fields. Reduced rates are available for non-profit Bloomington youth groups.

Check out the new Smith Park shelter, 8155 Park Avenue South. Smith Park features basketball and tennis courts, and all other park amenities with the exception of indoor restrooms and running water. ♦



Proposed* rental rates

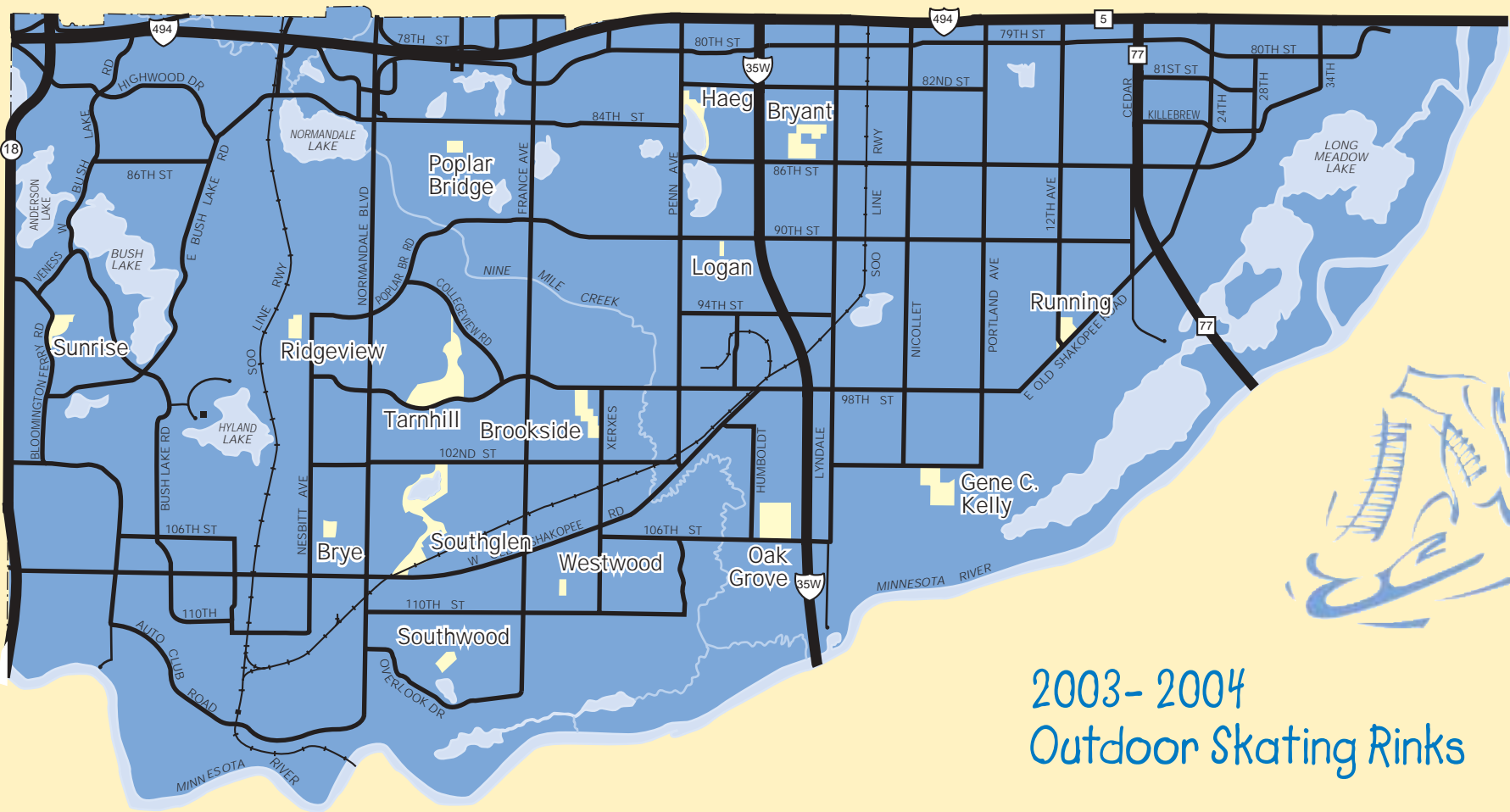
Moir Park
104th St. at Morgan Avenue
Shelter 1:
Accommodates 200+.
\$175 + tax = \$186.38.
Shelter 2:
Accommodates 50.
\$119 + tax = \$126.74.

West Bush Lake Park
94th St. at W. Bush Lake Rd.
Shelter 1:
Accommodates 240.
\$175 + tax = \$186.38.
Shelter 2:
Accommodates 150.
\$119 + tax = \$126.74.

East Bush Lake Park
9140 East Bush Lake Road
Shelter 3:
Accommodates 200.
\$231 + tax = \$246.02.

Smith Park
8155 Park Avenue South
Accommodates 30.
\$75 + tax = \$79.88.

*Subject to City Council approval December 2003.



2003- 2004
Outdoor Skating Rinks

Parks and Recreation will operate 15 outdoor ice skating sites this winter. Facilities include a lighted general skating rink, a hockey rink and a heated park shelter for changing skates and warming up. Each site is supervised by a Parks and Recreation employee during public skating hours. Weather permitting, park shelters will open Saturday, December 20, 2003, and close Sunday, February 15, 2004. ♦

Rink shelter hours		
	Regular 1/5/04 – 2/15/04	Holiday 12/22/03 – 1/4/04, 1/19/04
Parks:	Running, Westwood	
M – F	4 - 9 p.m.	1 - 9 p.m.
Sa	11 a.m. - 9 p.m.	11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Su	1 - 9 p.m.	1 - 9 p.m.
Parks:	Brookside, Bryant, Brye, Haeg, Kelly, Oak Grove, Poplar Bridge, Southglen, Southwood, Sunrise	
M – F	4 - 8 p.m.	1 - 8 p.m.
Sa	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su	1 - 5 p.m.	1 - 5 p.m.
* 12/24/03	All park shelters closed.	
* 12/25/03	All park shelters closed.	
* 12/31/03	All shelters open, 1 - 5 p.m.	
* 1/01/04	Shelters open, 1 - 5 p.m., at Poplar Bridge, Running, Sunrise and Westwood.	
* 1/19/04	All shelters open, holiday hours.	

Locations and features								
PARK	ADDRESS	PHONE	RINK			SHELTER		
			General	Hockey	Floodlights	Temporary	Permanent	
Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	952-835-6752	•	•	•		•	
Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	952-884-5457	•	•	•		•	
Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	952-888-1834	•	•	•		•	
Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	952-881-9691	•	•	•		•	
Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.		•	•	•	•		
Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.		•	•	•	•		
Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	952-831-1584	•	•	•		•	
Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	952-881-9641	•	2•	•		•	
Southglen	10701 Rich Road		•	•	•			
Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.		•	•	•	•		
Sunrise	9401 Blgtn. Ferry Rd.	952-829-1685	•	•	•		•	
Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	952-884-5519	•	2•	•		•	
▲ Temporary shelters are heated, with unheated “satellite” restrooms and no running water.								
Logan, Ridgeview and Tarnhill have general skating rinks for day use only.								

Bloomington Earth Action.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL RECYCLING/SOLID WASTE SECTION AT 952-563-8750.

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY.

IN 1903

Sugar cost 4 cents a pound. Fresh eggs were 14 cents per dozen. Coffee beans were 15 cents a pound.

IN 2003

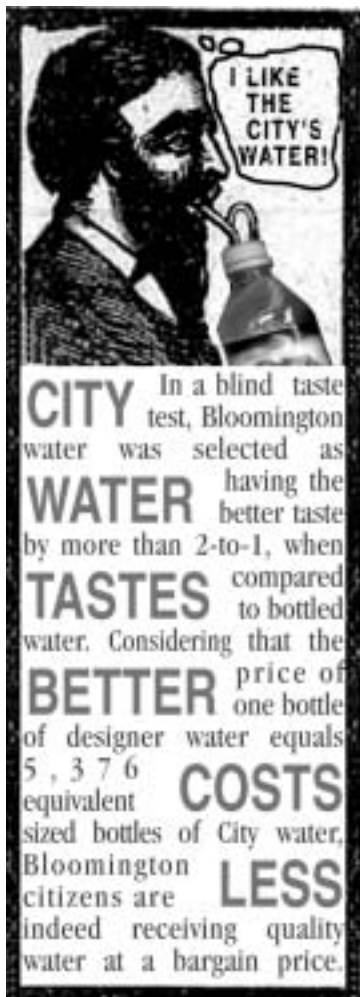
What a difference a century makes. Today a pound of coffee can cost \$8 and up. Be a smart shopper. Save money and reduce your impact on the environment. Tips include:

☞ **Buy in bulk**, where possible, to reduce packaging.

☞ **Eat healthy and spend less.** The healthiest foods, including grains, fruits and vegetables, are generally less expensive than prepared foods. Chop and freeze vegetables when they are on sale to save money and meal preparation time.


☞ **Take advantage of Bloomington's quality tap water.** See below. Studies show that tap water is as good as or better than bottled water in 98 percent of American households. It's cheaper, creates less waste and saves natural resources that go into manufacturing plastic bottles.

☞ **Use less expensive, non-toxic cleaning products**, including baking soda as a gentle, non-abrasive cleaner, olive oil mixed with lemon juice to clean furniture or club soda as a window cleaner and carpet stain remover.



CONSUMPTION.

IN 1903

We washed our hair once a month  used borax or those fresh egg yolks (see column to left) for shampoo.

IN 2003

Just think of the overwhelming choices for products today. People were very resourceful one hundred years ago. If they bought products, they bought them to last and nothing was wasted. The average U.S. worker made \$200 - \$400 per year in 1903 and they knew how to stretch a dollar.



Today we may have the financial resources to consume more, but we need to think about protecting the earth. Make this your motto: "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without." Tips include:

☞ **Use half as much of as many things as you can.** Start with shampoo, detergent and toothpaste. Get creative and see how many others you can come up with.

☞ **Use reusable** gift bags or save reusable paper for wrapping gifts this holiday season.

☞ **Donate unwanted items** to charity.

☞ **Value quality over quantity.** Buy quality products that last longer. Avoid disposable or inexpensive products that need frequent replacing.

☞ **Conserve water** - one of our most valuable resources.

FUN FACT.

IN 1900, newspapers were stuffed in walls for home insulation. TODAY, recycled newspapers are blown into walls in the form of cellulose insulation. A good idea never dies.

1900.

The U.S. population was 76,300,000. (In 2003, the U.S. population is 291,500,000.)

The Associated Press was founded.

Popular songs included *The Maple Leaf Rag*, *You Can't Keep A Good Man Down* and *Absence Makes The Heart Grow Fonder*.

LIVE MORE WITH LESS.

Quality beats quantity  saves resources.

YOU can fight traffic congestion.

Consume less  protect the earth.

LEARN TO LIVE MORE WITH LESS. Buying less dry goods reduces clutter, saves \$\$\$ and protects our environment. Folks, it is the first step to living a simpler life. More than ever we need to take the steps to lighten our impact on the earth. This turn-of-the-century page compares United States of America statistics from one hundred years ago to generate some ideas on how to reduce your consumption while adding to the quality of your life.

Sources: Escape from Affluenza series, www.pbs.org and www.environment.lifetips.com.

Don't know what to do with all those grocery bags? RECYCLE 'EM

Plastic bags are now accepted at Byerly's, Lunds, Rainbow Foods, Cub Foods, Supervalu and the Hennepin County Recycling Drop Off Center. All bags must be clean and dry. Make sure receipts, handles and strings are removed. Unfortunately, plastic bags are not accepted at the curb at this time.

DID YOU KNOW?

Carpet, playground equipment, clothing, packaging and lumber on decks are products that can be made from recycled plastics.

Recycling 1 TON of plastics saves the equivalent of 3.85 barrels of oil.

For information, visit www.itsinthebagmn.org.

TRAFFIC

IN 1903

ONLY 8,000 horseless carriages putted the 144 miles of paved roads (and lots of unpaved roads) in the U.S.

IN 2003

Traffic congestion in the Twin Cities is worsening according to the latest Urban Mobility Report by the Texas Transportation Institute. At the I-494 and I-35W interchange alone, more than 450,000 vehicles pass by daily. Congestion costs a metropolitan-area commuter \$560 per year in lost time and fuel. It would be worse if not for congestion-fighting measures such as mass transit, ramp metering and carpool lanes. See page 2.

Traffic congestion also contributes to poor air quality. What can you do to help reduce air pollution? Tips include:

☞ **Keep your car tuned up and the tires properly inflated** to cut the pollution your car emits and your annual gasoline use by 15 percent.

☞ **Consider buying a well-maintained used car** to save money and the resources it takes to manufacture a new one.

☞ **Make fuel efficiency and reliability your top priorities** in choosing a car, not status and color.

☞ **Car pool** at least once a week. Commuting in a van with six people or more can reduce your contribution to air pollution by as much as 85 percent.

☞ **Own only one vehicle.** Save money on gas, repairs, maintenance and insurance.

☞ **Drive less.** Use alternative transportation when available. Plan ahead and combine trips.

SPEED.

IN 1903, the maximum speed in most cities was 10 MILES per hour.



Today, residents cite speed of traffic in our neighborhoods as one of their biggest concerns. Play an active role in calming traffic on our streets. Remember, slowing traffic in your neighborhood begins with driving slow in all neighborhoods.

LIVE SIMPLY.

IN 1903

Eight percent of our homes had a telephone.

IN 2003

Imagine the peaceful calm during a dinner without a couple telemarketing calls. How do we meet the challenges from the distractions that didn't exist a century ago? To reduce stress, enrich your community and live a simpler life try these suggestions:

☞ **Limit your TV use** and give yourself a lot more free time - the average American watches 49 hours of television per week.

☞ **Walk to your local library.**

☞ **Get active.** Go for a walk with the kids.

☞ **Volunteer** for a school or community group.

☞ **Take a cue from a simpler time.** Bake bread, plant a garden, get to know your neighbors.

☞ **Make time for family and friends.**

From The Home Comfort Range Cook Book, circa 1900.

RECIPES. CREAM CANDY.

Two pounds sugar (one quart), half a pint of water, one-fourth of a pint of vinegar, butter the size of an egg, one teaspoonful of lemon. Boil fifteen minutes without stirring; pull white.

PICKLED WALNUTS.

One hundred walnuts, salt and water. To each quart of vinegar allow two ounces of whole black pepper, one ounce of allspice, one ounce of bruised ginger. Procure the walnuts while young; be careful they are not woody, and prick them well with a fork; prepare a strong brine of salt and water (four pounds of salt to each gallon of water), into which put the walnuts, letting them remain nine days, and changing the brine every third day.

Bloomington Yesterday

Martin McLeod 1813-1860

Martin McLeod arrived at Fort Snelling in 1837 as part of a paramilitary group and stayed to work with a fur trading company. He built a home on the Minnesota River bluff east of Lyndale Avenue. McLeod was active in early territorial government and served as chair of the first Town of Bloomington Board in 1858. He is remembered for proposing a bill that allowed schoolchildren in Minnesota to receive a free education. McLeod also donated four acres of land that later became the beginnings of Bloomington Cemetery.

One of the conference rooms in Bloomington City Hall is named for McLeod. ♦



Bloomington Historical Society

Community News

Local business awarded Human Rights honor

The Toro Company was honored with the 2003 Omar Bonderud Award for their community outreach efforts and support of cultural education and awareness programs in Bloomington. The Bloomington Human Rights Commission presented the award to Toro at this month's City Council meeting.

Community involvement

The Toro Company is committed to community projects and activities that benefit at-risk youth, elderly residents and civic organizations. Efforts include collaborating on a spring cleanup project and Junior Achievement program with Olson Middle School, and promoting multi-cultural interaction and

education as a corporate sponsor of the Bloomington Sister City Organization.

Employee volunteer program

In 2003, Toro began a volunteer program that allows their employees to take paid

time off to volunteer for non-profit organizations. The program has helped a number of organizations in Bloomington, including the Loaves and Fishes program at Creekside Community Center.

Award history

The Omar Bonderud Award is presented to recognize individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to ensuring the rights of people in the community. Omar Bonderud was the first chair of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, which was formed in 1968.

For more information, call 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword "Bonderud." ♦



Referrals for families in need

Lower income families who are in need of basic furniture (beds, sofas, kitchen table and chairs, etc.) may be eligible to receive these items through the nonprofit organi-

zation Bridging, Inc. For more information, call Denise Royer, Alissa Smith or Jackie Doncavage at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



Sister City Organization celebrates 10 years

In honor of the Bloomington Sister City Organization's (BSCO) 10th anniversary with Izumi City, an official delegation of BSCO members visited Japan in October.

Places of interest

After a tour of Tokyo, delegates rode the bullet train to Osaka and met officials from Izumi City. As guests, the delegation visited Osaka Castle, Kaiyukan

Aquarium, Kuboso Memorial Museum of Arts and the Kansai International Airport Island.

Celebration of the harvest

A highlight of the trip was participation in the Izumi Danjiri Festival (a celebration of the harvest), at which the delegation was honored to pull a hand-carved wooden wagon carrying the Mayor of Izumi City.

Building relationships

The delegation was honored and proud to represent the BSCO in Izumi City. BSCO looks forward to the continued exchange of people, information and ideas. It is through these people-to-people connections that strong relationships, friendships and understandings are built. For more information, call 952-563-8735. ♦

What's at Creekside

Bloomington Senior Programs are located at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Consider attending a special program or become a regular participant in one of the ongoing daily activities. For more information, call 952-563-4948; 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



Special lunch programs

Lunch at Creekside is taking on a new "flavor." Register for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and stay for a special music presentation. **Music Mondays** are December 22 and January 26. **Ethnic Meal Tuesdays** on December 9 feature Soul Food.

Celebrate the holidays at Creekside

Creekside Community Center puts on its best this holiday season. Events include:

Winter Music Show

The annual **Winter Music Show** will be held Thursday, December 11, at 1 p.m., featuring performances by the Bloomingtones, Kut-Ups/Yes We Can, Crickets and Renegades. Cost is \$3, payable at the door.

A shopper's delight

The **Creekside Boutique** is an essential stop for the holidays, featuring handmade gift items made by local residents. Items include hand-crocheted and knitted items, quilts, afghans, dolls, doll clothes and furniture. Holiday hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - noon.



Stock up for the holidays

Stop in to shop for all of your holiday baking needs. The **Creekside Buyer's Club** sells nuts, dried fruits, rice, honey, chocolate chips along with fresh produce. The Buyer's Club is open to the public Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. and 12:45 - 1:30 p.m.

Brush up on your computer skills

Start the new year by learning or fine-tuning your computer skills. **Classes** are offered in our computer lab and are tailored to the older learner. For class information, call Creekside.

Life is Like a Valued Patchwork

Human Services offers exciting learning opportunities the fourth Wednesday of each month from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$3 and includes a continental breakfast. To register, call Creekside. For transportation, call 952-563-4948. ♦

December 24

Holiday Tea and Story Time

Invite your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors to a special holiday tea and story time at Creekside Community Center. Enjoy holiday folktales from around the world presented by Bernie, Oxboro Library's Youth Services Librarian. Bring a teacup.

January 28

Diabetes: Diagnosis, Prevention and Control

Certified Diabetes Educator Mary Lavelle will present.

